

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 and 12-20 were pending in the present application. By virtue of this response, claims 7, 13, and 14 have been cancelled, claims 1 and 12 have been amended, and claims 21 and 22 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1-6, 8-10, 12, and 15-22 are currently under consideration. Amendment and cancellation of certain claims is not to be construed as a dedication to the public of any of the subject matter of the claims as previously presented. For the Examiner's convenience, Applicants' remarks are presented in the same order in which they were raised in the Office Action.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1, 3, 5-14, 16, and 18-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Dunfield et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,774,974; hereinafter "Dunfield").

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 12 as indicated above. Support for the amendment to claims 1 and 12 may be found, for example, in Figs. 2, 4, and paragraph [0019] of the present application. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

Applicants submit that Dunfield fails to disclose or suggest an apparatus for supporting a stator including "a support base member having formed therein a first annular support member and a second annular support member," that abut a first and second portion of the stator as recited by amended claim 1. Claim 12 has been similarly amended to recite "a support base member having formed therein: a first annular support means for supporting a first portion of the stator; and a second annular support member for supporting a second portion of the stator." These features are not disclosed or suggested by Dunfield.

The Examiner states on page 2 of the Office Action that Dunfield discloses "a stator (50), coaxial with the rotatable member, being supported by at least two support members (56 and 40) abutting said stator (50)..." (Emphasis added). The Examiner has identified drive shaft 56 and wire guide 40 of Dunfield as disclosing first and second support members as recited in the claims.

Drive shaft 56 and wire guide 40, however, are not formed in or as part of “a support base member,” and do not abut/support a first and second portion of the stator as recited by amended claims 1 and 12. Even if drive shaft 56 and wire guide 40 were formed in or as part of “a support base member,” wire guide 40 of Dunfield does not “abut” or “support” a portion of the stator. In embodiments where wire guide 40 is not removed following soldering, wire guide 40 remains merely to retain adhesive when stator 50 is potted. (see, col. 3, line 59- col. 4, line 24). Accordingly, Applicants submit that Dunfield does not disclose or suggest all features of claims 1 and 12 and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 2, 4, 15, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Dunfield et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,774,974) in view of Dunfield et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,694,268; hereinafter “Dunfield ‘268”).

Claims 2, 4, 15, and 17 depend from claims 1 and 12 respectively and should be allowable over Dunfield for at least similar reasons as claims 1 and 12. The addition of Dunfield ‘268 fails to cure the deficiencies of Dunfield identified above. Accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 146712007100. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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